



TO THE  
R E A D E R S.

**I***T is twice five Tears and upwards, since the Model of this Fancie was first influenced into my Brain; with the taste whereof (after perfect digestion) I then did gratifie some few of my Friends, and soon after amongst other Experiments (which your Kindness (if continued without the too usual Adherent of Adulation) may in time ingage me to give the World a sight of) committed it to the quiet Repositum of my Desk; which being so long Dormant, under a frowning Direction of sullen Saturn, was about three Months since by the powerful Energie of Benovolent Jove, roused up, and but with a thousand strong rush't out into the open World, venturing with that small Force, to make out its own way; whereby pleasing Fortune managed the Undertaking so successfully, that it became Victorious over the Fancie of most of its Assailants. But considering with the Poet,*

## To the Readers.

Non nimor est virtus , quam quærere,  
parta tueri.

*To keep a Conquest got by good, or ill,  
Then to acquire it first, is greater skill.*

*I therefore thought it but common Prudence, on the Defensive part ; to send forth this Edition as a Seasonable Relief, which being doubly Fortified (with a Squadron of Pentameters, as well as Hexameters, all newly raised) exceeds in force the former Equipage ; and therefore there is no reason to doubt (if you will be but so generous, as fairly to engage your Fancies, and permit a frank Encounter) of as fortunate a success ; which if so, and any of you in this Dixomachy, shall by the fortune of War, become Captive, we do hereby, before-hand declare , that 24 Quadrants shall be the highest price chargeable for your Ransomes.*

Hanc veniam petimusq; damusq; vicissim.

*'Tis no improvident Policy to shew favour to the vanquisht , considering the alternate state of things : We know not how soon Fortune may turn the Scales, and then we may stand in as much need of your kind dealing, as perhaps you may now of ours :*

ours: *though to day some of you may be our Captives, too morrow (it may be) we may be yours; you may then emit somewhat as powerfully taking to our Fancy, as we have perhaps done now to yours: Et erit mihi Judex, qui ante erat mihi reus.*

*But I here expect to meet from you, with the like objection, as Metellus did from Tully; telling him, Whereas you talk of Conquest and Captivity, I see not why you should do so, seeing we never fell out: I answer, There may be a Conquest although there be no Falling-out: Every Morning are the Captive Shades willingly vanquished, by the Conquering Beams of the Glorious Sun. 'Tis weakness to contend with an over-powerful Aggressor, to offer to enter the List with an Adversary, whose strength (we are conscious) is irresistible. Darkness may as well withstand Sols powerful Rays, as your or my Fancy refuse to embrace an Adequate Object, when presented to it: ὁμοιοις ὁμοιοις φιλῶι, every like is inamor'd with its Like: Yet as there is a Sympathy, so is there an Antipathy in Nature: therefore I would not be thought so presumptuously conceited, as to imagine this conceit should please all; when the O-rator shall fall in love with Versifying,*

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## To the Readers.

*the Melancholike with Musick, the Husbandman with Navigation; Et vice versa, then, and not till then, may this Device be grateful to all Pallats. When the Universal Elixir shall be attained unto, and shall perform what hath been so long and often promised by it, then I shall not despair of furnishing you with some Rariety, which to all your Fancies (like that to all Constitutions) shall be alike taken: And in the mean time, that this (such as it is) may not miss the hands of any one of those to whose suitable Faculties it is Naturally adapted: and that all the Heterodox, that have a Natural aversness to Versifying and the Mathematicks, may have the good Fortune to meet with as cheap occasions (as this) to gratifie their several Genius, is the earnest and cordial wish of him, that is not insensible of the ravishing Delight of such appropriate Occurences, and is*

Dat. a Musæolo

Sep. 29°. Die

h. 1677.

*Their Benevolent  
Friend,*

JOHN PETER.



*Artificial Versifying.*



As the *Reason of Numbers* (if we dare credit *Solomon*, *Wisd.* 11. 20.) was *One* of the chiefest *Rules*, according to which *God* fram'd the *World*; so is it also none of the meanest

*Instruments*, by which he still upholds its *Fabrick*: So that to set light by the power of *Numbers*, is to undervalue the *Wisdom* of the *Almighty*, who thereby at first modulated the *whole Creation*; and still makes use of an *Harmonical Concenter*, and *Physical Proportion* to keep all in *Tune*. By which means also is the *Reciprocal Harmony* maintained betwixt the *Macrocosme*, and the *Microcosme*; as only to instance in the *Sidereal Irradiations* (by which the *Planets Influences* are transferred to all *Sublunary Matter*) which are evidently demonstrated to be every way proportionable to the *whole Systeme* of the *Universe*; *Nature* every where chiefly celebrating those very *Proportions*, as truly commensurate in all *Arithmetical* and *Geometrical* Respects. All the

*pleasure and satisfaction* we can receive from *Natural Speculation*, is *dull and insipid*, in comparison to the transporting *Complacencies*, which may be extracted from *this Harmony*; as is much better known unto every Man, by how much the more he is exercised in *these Operations*.

*Great* is the *Force* of *Numbers* in the *Discovery* of *Natures Secrets*; without its *Assistance* *this Device* had never been *attainable*, but must have lain *latent* and *undiscovered* amongst the insolite and unacquainted *Secrets* of *Art*: Whatsoever *Skill* hath been used in the *Composition* of the following *Tables*, or *Pains* taken in cracking this *Nut*, I do assure you that by the subsequent *Directions*, you may with ease and facility enough, attain the *Kernel*, be speedily capacitated though (you understand not one word of *Latine*) to make almost Six hundred thousand different *Latine Verses*; as is hereafter declared. And in some measure to satisfy the *Curiosity* of those that may demand, why 9 should in *this* matter be assign'd for our *Characteristick*, rather than any other *Number*? I thus briefly reply; Every *Number* is endued with its *particular Power*, in which respect this of 9 is not a little *Eminent*. *Naturalists*  
and

and Physicians, do refer *Critical Times* to the Number 9, as well as 7 ( though both no otherwise, then as they accompany their *Causes*) as is manifest by their general Consent to its *verified Operations* in *Clymatical Years*, unto which they ascend by 9 *Hebdomeda's*. Plato, who made so great a scrutiny into the *Power* of *Numbers*, who plac'd the *Period* of *Mans Life* in the Number 9, did himself to admiration, verify the *Operation*, by finishing the *Period* of his own, in the *Quadrat* of 9 times 9, viz. 81, in which year he died, on the very same day his *Nativity* revolved. But to omit all other *Instances*, let it be enough to consider, that *Joves Female* offspring by *Mnemosyne* (the *Goddeſs* of *Learning*; as the *Poets* account them) were not limited to the Number 9, without some *Mysterious* and *Analogical* respect: upon which account, 'tis no wonder that this *Poetical Artifice*, should be made to own its *Energie* to the *Sacred Number* of the *Muses*.

There hath been much *time* and *diligence* bestowed by *Industrious* and *Learned Men* of *Communicative Spirits* of former *Ages*, and of *late Times*, to reduce their *Arithmetical Theories* into *Practice*, to fit their *Conclusions* to *Instrumental work*, for the  
benefit

benefit of *illiterate Artificers* : As so successful have *their* endeavours prov'd, that thereby *Commodious Advantages* have arrived to *Persons* of *divers Faculties*, who though *they* have been altogether ignorant of *Arithmetick*, and of all *Literature*, yet by the benefit of *Instrumental Operation*, they have been capacitated to perform *such Conclusions*, as their respective *Faculties* required, though thereof they have not been able to give a better *Reason*, than that *it is so, because it is so*.

Now least the *Common Fidler* (who, though ignorant in *Musical Proportions*, can notwithstanding Play *Tuneable* on his *Instrument*) and least the *Carpenter*, *Glassier*, or *Bricklayer* (who though not all vers'd in *Arithmetick*, can by their *Rule*, know the *Content* of their *Work*) should boast of their *Singular Advantages*, and triumph over the *Latinist* and the *Poet*, (as wanting *such* *Facil* and *Artificial Supplies*, as they are accommodated with) I have thought fit in the *Poets* behalf, to Publish the following *Invention*, to stop the *Carrier* of their *Mechanical Ostentation*.

*The Use of the Tables, and manner of Operation.*

**O**ur Order and Method, doth ingage us in the *first* place to declare the use of the *Tables* for making those kind of *Verses*, call'd *Hexameters*; and therefore for the thorow understanding of *them*, take these following *Generals*;

(1) You are to know, That every *Verse* you are to make by the *first 6 Tables*, will be an *Hexameter Verse* (so call'd, because those kind of *Verses* consist of *Six Feet*, neither more nor less) and will be made up of just 6 *Line Words*.

(2) You are to note, That every one of those *6 Words*, are *orderly* to be produced out of the 6 *Tables* respectively, *Viz.* the *first* word of the *Verse* is to be wrought out of the 1 *Table*; the *second word* of the *Verse*, is to be produced out of the 2 *Table*; the *third word* is to arise out of the 3 *Table*: and so the *fourth*, *fifth*, and *last* words, are to be workt thorow the 4th, 5th, and 6th *Tables* respectively.

(3) You are to understand, That whensoever you shall be minded to make a *Verse* by these *Tables*, you must set down on a  
piece

piece of paper, any *Six* of the *Nine Figures*, call'd *Digits*, viz. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. But *he* that cannot *Write* or *Read* (if he knows but the *Alphabet*, and can tell 9) by conceiving any *Six* of *them* in his mind (since he may be taught the *use* of these *Tables*, either by *words* of *mouth*, or by hearing these *Directions* read) the thing to him will be the *same* thorowout the whole *Operation*, as to him that can *Write* and *Read*.

(4) *Six* of any of those *Nine Figures*, being set down on a piece of Paper, are as so many respective *Keys* to the 6 *Tables*: the *first Figure* towards the left hand, is always to be applied to the 1 *Table*, and is the proper *Key* to *that Table*. The *second Figure* (always reckoning their places *orderly* towards the right hand) is to be *always* appropriated to the 2 *Table*. The *third Figure* in order, is as a proper *Key* to the 3 *Table*. And so *every* of the *Six Figures*, are thus *orderly* to be applied to their 6 respective *Tables*. So that the *first Figure* produces out of the 1 *Table*, the *first word* of the *Verse*. The *second Figure*, by the 2 *Table*, works out the *second word* of the *Verse*; and so the 6 *Figures*, do produce the 6 *Words* of the *Verse*, out of their respective *Tables*. (5) When



(5) When you have pitched upon any 6 Figures to make your set of , and put them down on a Paper , the way to work them out so, that every one of the 6 Figures, may produce *its* respective *Latine Word*, out of *its* proper *Table* (to which by its place and order it appertains) I say, the Rule for Operation is this, *viz.* With the Figure that belongs to *its* proper *Table* , you must number on with the *Columns* of the said *Table*, till you come to 9 in count upon the *Columns* (always reckoning the first *Column* of the *Table* one more than the Figure , except it be 9, and then you are always to count the first *Column* of the *Table* 1) at which 9th *Column*, you are always to make a stop (for in the whole Operation you are never to count past 9) and diligently mark the Letter you shall find plac'd therein; and write it down on a piece of Paper (for that is to be the first Letter of your *Latine word*) and as diligently are you to observe the *Column* wherein you found that Letter (which if you mistake, the whole Operation of that word will be frustrated) from which count the succeeding *Columns* , till you come to the 9th, and mark well that 9th *Column* , and the Letter in it, which you must put down  
on

on the Paper to the *other Letter* ; and so counting forward to the 9th *Column* , see what *Letter* is therein , and add it to the *other* on the Paper , and so till the word is wrought out by *that Table* ; which that you may *know* , it is so *contrived* , that when the word is ended , the last count of 9 will alway fall upon a *Blank Column*.

But since the *use* of the *Tables* will be made more clear and intelligible by *Example* , I shall so manifestly declare their *use* by *this set* of *Figures* (713773) working every *Figure* through its *proper Table* , that it may be apprehended by the *meanest capacity*.

*Example* , 713773.

The *first Figure* towards the *left hand* being (7) belongs to the 1 *Table* , and therefore I shall call the *first Column* of that *Table* 8 , the *second Column* 9 , at which I stop , and observing the *Letter* that is in that *Column* which is (i) I set it down on a piece of Paper ; and because it is to be the *first Letter* of the *first word* of the *Verse* , I put it down at the beginning of a line , and with a great *Letter* thus ,

1 2 3 4 5 6  
*Ignea Scorta, patet proritant pocula multa.*

Then the next *Column* wherein I found that *i*, I reckon 1, the next *Column* to that 2, the next 3, and so I count the *Columns* on in order, till I come to the 9th *Column* from the said *i*, wherein finding the *Letter* (*g*) I put it down next to *i*, as above; then well marking the *Column* in which I found that *g*, (from thence count on (as I did from *g*) orderly to the 9th *Column*, and therein finding the *Letter* (*n*) I add that to *g*, as above; from this *n*, I reckon till I come to the 9th *Column*, in which I find the *Letter* (*e*) which putting down to *n*, as above, I go on to count from this *e*, to the 9th *Column*, and therein finding the *Letter* (*a*) I put it down next to *e*, as above, and proceed to count on to the 9th *Column* from this *a*; but therein finding a *Blank*, I thereby know that the whole word is wrought out, and that there are to be no more *Letters* in the first word of the *Vers*e than *Ignea*.

To work out the second word of the *Vers*e by the second *Figure* in order, which is (1) I apply it to the 2 *Table*, and call the first *Column* thereof 2, the second 3, the

the *third Column* 4, and so reckon the *Columns* in order till I come to the 9th, at which I *stop*, and finding *therein* the *Letter* (s) I put it down on the Paper in the same line with *Ignea*, at a convenient distance, because it is to begin *another word*; and beginning from the *Column* in which I found s, to count the *Columns* till I come to the 9th, I find therein the *Letter* (c) and putting it down to s, as above, from *this c*, I reckon till I come to the 9th *Column*, and *therein* meeting with the *Letter* (o) and putting it down to c, I from thence count to the 9th *Column*, and finding *therein* the *Letter* (r) I add it too, from whence numbring to the 9th *Column*, I therein meet with the *Letter* (t) which writing down to r, I from thence count to the 9th *Column*, and *therein* finding the *Letter* (a) I add it to t (as you see before done) and proceeding to reckon on to the 9th *Column* from that a, I *therein* find a *Blank*, and thereby do know that the *word* is composed, and that there are to be *no more Letters* in the *second word* of the *Verse*, than *Scorta*.

To work out the *third word* of the *Verse* by the 3 *Table*, I apply to it the *third Figure* in order in the *Set*, which is (3) and  
do

do therefore call the *first Column* of that *Table 4*, the *second Column 5*, the *third Column 6*, and so orderly till I number to the *9th Column*, in which finding the *Letter (p)* I put it down in the same line next to *Scorta*, at a convenient distance, because it is to begin *another word*; from which *Column* (wherein I found *(p)*) I count till I come to the *9th*, and therein finding the *Letter (a)* I put it down next to *p*, (as you see before) and from thence reckoning to the *9th Column*, I meet with the *Letter (t)* there, which adding to *a*, I from thence count to the *9th Column*, and therein finding the *Letter (e)* do put it down to *t*, and then numbring from *this e*, to the *9th Column*, do therein find the *Letter (t)* which I put down to the *Letter e* (as before you may see done) then from *this t*, I count to the *9th Column*, and therein meeting with a *Blank*, thereby I know that there are to be *no more Letters* in the *third word* of *this Verse*, than *paret*.

To work out the *4th word* of the *Verse*, I apply the *fourth Figure* in order in the *Set*, which is (7) to the *4th Table*, and count the *first Column* thereof 8, the *second Column 9*, at which I stop; wherein finding the *Letter (p)* I put it down at a convenient

venient distance from the *last word patet*, in the same line (it being the *first Letter* of *another word*) and counting to the 9th *Column* from *p*, I *therein* find the *Letter* (*r*), which putting down to *p*, (as you may see done before) I from *thence* reckon to the 9th *Column*, and do find *therein* the *Leter* (*o*) which I add to *r*, and from *thence* counting to the 9th *Column*, I *there* meet the *Letter* *r*) which puting down next to *o*, I from *thence* go on to the 9th *Column*, wherein finding the *Letter* (*i*) do set it down to *r*, and counting from *thence* to the 9th *Column*, I *there* find the *Letter* (*t*) which putting down to *i*, I count on to the 9th *Column*; I *therein* finding the *Letter* (*a*) do add it to *t*, and from *thence* reekoning to the 9th *Column*, where meeting with the *Letter* (*n*) I do write it down to *a*, and from *thence* I number to the 9th *Column*, and find there the *Letter* (*t*) which putting down next to *n*, I proceed to count on to the 9th *Column* from the said *t*, wherein meeting with a *Blank*, I thereby know that the *ath word* of the *Verse* is wrought out, and that it hath no more *Letters* than *proxitant*.

To work out the *fifth word* of this *Verse*, apply the 5th *Figure* in order in the *set*, which



is (7) to the 5th *Table*, and counting the first *Column* thereof 8, the second 9, in which finding the *Letter* (p) I put it down at a convenient distance from the word *pro-ritant* (as you see done before) and from thence counting to the 9th *Column*, I therein find the *Letter* (o) and setting it down next to p, I from thence reckon to the 9th *Column*, and there meeting the *Letter* (c) do add it to o, from whence counting to the 9th *Column*, I find the *Letter* (u) which I put down to c, and from thence reckoning the 9th *Column*, I therein find the *Letter* (l) which I write down to u, and go on to the 9th *Column*, where meeting with the *Letter* (a) I put it down to l, and proceed to count on to the 9th *Column* from this a, where meeting with a *Blank*, I thereby know that there are to be no more *Letters* in the 5th word of this *Vers*e, than *pocula*.

To work out the sixth and last word of this *Vers*e, I apply the sixth and last *Figure* of the *Set*, viz. 3, to the 6th and last *Table*, and counting the first *Column* thereof 4, the next 5; and so forewards till I come to the 9th *Column* in count, wherein finding the *Letter* (m) I put it down (at a fit distance from the preceding word next be-

fore, viz. *pocula*) and from *thence* reckoning to the 9th *Column*, I *therein* finding the *Letter* (*u*) I put it down next to *m*, and from *thence* numbering on to the 9th *Column*, I do there find the *letter* (*l*) which writing down to *u*, I *thence* number to the 9th *column*, and *therein* finding the *Letter* (*i*) do put it down to *l*, and from *thence* reckon to the 9th *column*, where meeting with the *letter* (*a*) I set it down next to *t*; from *this a*, I go on to count to the 9th *column*, wherein finding a *blank*, I thereby know the *word* is *ended*, and that there are to be *no more letters* in the *sixth* and *last word* of *this Verse*, than *multa*.

By which *several Operations*, I have made it *plain* to you, that in *this set* of *Figures* (7 1 3 7 7 3) the *first Figure* (7) in the *first place* produceth the *first word* of the *verse* (*Ignem*) the *Figure* (1) in the *second place* bringeth out the *second word* (*Scorta*) the *Figure* (3) in the *third place* produceth the *third word* (*patet*) the *Figure* (7) in the *fourth place* worketh out the *fourth word* (*proxi*) the *Figure* (7) in the *fifth place* formeth out the *fifth word* (*pocula*) and that the *Figure* (3) in the *sixth* and *last place* doth extract the *sixth* and *last word* of the *verse* (*multa*) Every of which

which 6 words being set down on a piece of paper, as they were wrought out of their proper Tables, make this Hexameter Verse (as before is set down) viz.

*Ignea scorta, patet, prorieant pocula multa.*

As to the trueness of the Latine and the Verse, I appeal to any ingenious Grammarian; and as to the Sense, I do heretowith, that this Swinish and Debauched Age could not subscribe its *Probatum est*.

The use of the Hexameter Tables is so clearly laid down in this one Example, that it seems altogether needless to say any thing more towards their Explication; therefore for your further exercise in the Operation of the Hexameter Table, I shall only lay down one set of Figures, viz. 964845, which at your leisure you will find by reckoning them out by their respective Tables, to produce this Verse.

*Effera damna domi præmonstrant lumina acerba.*

Which set of Figures reversest and set backwards, you will experiment to make this following Verse.

*Horrida vincla sequi producunt prælia sæva.*

*The Use of the 5 Tables for making of Pentameter Verses.*

**T**HE manner of Operation for the working out of *Pentameter Verses* by these *Tables*, is the very same with the forementioned way, whereby *Hexameter Verses* were wrought out by their *Tables*: Only whereas *Hexameter Verses* consisting of 6 words, do therefore require 6 *Figures* to work them through 6 *Tables*. Here all *Pentameter Verses* produceable from these *Tables*, are to consist but of 5 *Latine words*, and so only require 5 *Figures* to work them through their 5 *Tables*: so that any set of 5 *Figures* workt through their respective *Tables* (in all respects like as you have been shewed in the *Example* of the *Hexameter Verse* before mentioned) will certainly produce 5 *Latine words*, which will not fail to make a true *Pentameter Verse*, which will be true *Latine* and good *Sense*.

As suppose you make a set of these 5 *Figures*,

( 1 9 7 2 3 )

You will find them (if truly wrought out by their respective *Tables*) to raise this *Pentameter Verse*, viz.

*Turpia*

*Turpia procurant acta molesta mera.*

Which if reversed and placed exactly backwards, thus,

( 3 2 . 7 9 1 )

Then to represent to you this Pentameter verse, viz.

*Impia conglomerant acta maligna vides.*

And further, if you shall be so minded to compose a pair of verses together (viz. An Hexameter and Pentameter verse) then set down 2 set of Figures thus,

6 8 5 1 9 1

8 1 9 5 5

Out of which 2 sets of Figures, if truly wrought out by their proper Tables, you will find this pair of verses to arise, answering one another in sense too.

*Pessima fata tuis prænarrant sidera nigra.*

*Tetrica significant Astra nefanda viris.*

Both which sets of Figures (placed backwards) you will see will bring out quite different verses.

Thus, and by every way changing the Figures places (both in the sets for Hexameters and Pentameters) will be produced such variety of Latine words to compose different verses of, . causing such various alteration

*alteration* in their sense, that *these Operations* cannot but prove very *delightful* to those, that understand the *Latine Tongue*, and not a little *grateful* to them that take *pleasure* in the *powers of Numbers*. And now if I tell the *former* (to his admiration) that the *foregoing Tables* are *productive* of 590490 *different Latine Verses*, I am assured that the *ingenuity* of the *Latter*, will acquit me of the *imputation of Conjurat[i]on*, vvherevvith not only by some illiterate *Mechanicks*, but by a certain *Academick*, I have been for this thing vweakly *stigmatized*.

*Pro captu Lectoris habent sua Fata Libelli.*

*The Fate of Books depends not on the skill  
Or worth of Authors, but on th' Readers will.*

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## *An Advertisement.*

**T**He Author hath set forth an Almanack for the next year 1678, called the Astral Gazet. (Printed for the Company of Stationers) furnished with many things not common with other Almanacks.

F I N I S.